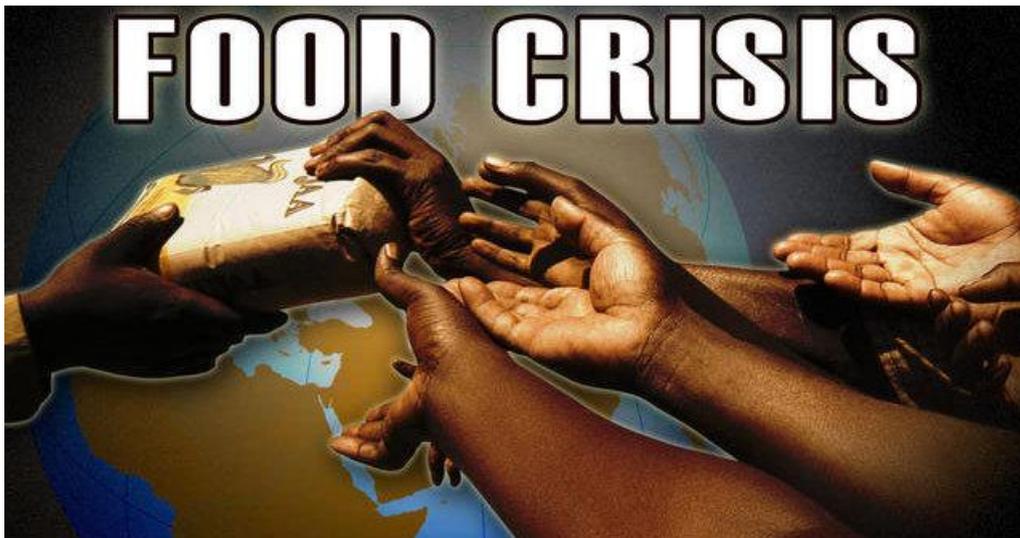


## **Food Problem in India**

India is an agricultural country. Nearly three-fourths of the population of India depends upon agriculture and allied occupations. Even then India is faced with the problem of scarcity of food grains. Of course at present the food situation in India has improved. But the future is always uncertain as far as the availability of food is concerned.



There are many causes for the shortage of food in India. The methods of cultivation in India are old-fashioned. The implements used by the farmers are outdated and crude. The seeds which they use are also not of improved quality. The farmer being a very poor person is unable to invest money for the improvement of his fields. The Indian farmers are too poor and ignorant to buy modern tools and implements. Scientific methods of cultivation are not practised. The net result is poor production. The next reason for the food problem is that Indian agriculture is a gamble during the monsoons. Indian farmers still depend on the rain for

cultivation. But the rains are very uncertain in India. If the rains are poor, the agriculture suffers. This may cause famine and drought. Similarly, if there is excessive rain, floods play havoc and cause a lot of damage to crops, resulting in famines. Irrigational facilities in India are not widespread.



One of the main causes for the food problem is the increasing population in India: Production of food grains has not increased in proportion to the rise in population. Every year, the population increases by a few crores so that it is very difficult to meet the food requirements. Besides, farmers are more after cash crops than after food crops. The result is that the area under cultivation for food grains has decreased. Hoarders and blackmarketeers cause artificial food shortages by hoarding food grains. They purchase large quantities of food grains at the time of harvest at cheap rates. They hoard food grains to sell them at blackmarket rates during the time of scarcity. A huge quantity of food grains is also destroyed by pests like rats. Food grains are not distributed properly. In some

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places the scarcity of food is due to the food habits of .the people. Rice eaters find it difficult to take to wheat eating.

In order to solve the problem of food, the government must pay serious attention to the development of agriculture. Agricultural production must be increased. This can be done by adopting scientific methods of cultivation. The farmers should be granted easy loans to improve their lands. They should also be supplied with better implements, better seeds and fertilizers at low rates so that they can increase the agricultural production. They should be educated in modern methods of cultivation. They should be given a reasonable price for their products so that they are encouraged to introduce improvements and increase the production. Top priority should be given to the cultivation of food crops. The government must curb the activities of hoarders and blackmarketeers. The government should also initiate a war against the pests. The growth rate of population must also be checked.